THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There have been no heavy financial losses to the Department of Posts as such in case of foreign parcel mail during the past few years. However, there has been a decline in the traffic of foreign parcels sent from India to foreign countries (outward) and received from foreign countries for delivery in India (inward). The decline in traffic is mainly due to the availability of more providers of this services in the market like private couriers, air freight companies, freight forwarding agents, etc.

(b) The details of the decline in the traffic of foreign parcels in last four years is as follows :

Year	Outward Parcel	Inward Parcel
1992-93	1,81,168	2,87,654
1993-94	1,61,300	2,65,763
1994-95	1,22,090	2,53,750
1995-96	1,10,203	2,30,301

(c) Continuous efforts are made to improve the quality of parcel service to face the competition posed by the other providers of the services.

(d) In view of the above, the question does not arise.

Out of Order Telephones

4176. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Exchanges in Delhi are not working property, particularly in Shakti Nagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Exchange-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government for providing better telephone facilities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Majority of the Exchanges in Delhi, which are digital electronic are working properly. However, some electromechanical exchanges such as at Shakti Nagar, do not provide sophisticated facilities at par with digital electronic exchanges. It is proposed to replace all electro machnical exchanges by digital electronic during the 9th Plan period.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) (i) Replacement of old and life expired exchanges by modern technology exchanges.

(ii) Replacement of fault prone underground cables by jelly filled cables.

(iii) Laying of cables in ducts.

(iv) Introduction of modern tools and testing aids in the network.

(v) Provision of 100% junction network on digital Optical Fibre Cables (OFC).

(vi) Introduction of wireless technology on local loop.

(vii) Upgradation of external plant.

(viii) Training to the staff to increase skill in modern technology.

(ix) Computerisation of various customers services.

[English]

Postal Service in Village Panchayats of West Bengal

4177. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of village Panchayats in West Bengal, which have been provided with Post and Telegraph Office facility so far;

(b) the number of P and T offices proposed to be provided during 1996-97;

(c) the time limit fixed for providing this facility in every village Panchayat;

(d) the number of Post Offices under village Panchayats where STD facility is available;

(e) whether there is any time bound scheme for providing STD facility in every village Panchayat Post Offices;

(f) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 3320 Gram Panchayat Villages in West Bengal have been provided with Post Office facility so far.

Telegraph : 1579 villages have been provided Telegraph facility in West Bengal.

(b) *Post* : There is a target to open 4 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 2 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in West Bengal during 1996-97.

Telegraph - Nil

(c) *Post*

Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual Plan Schemes on norms based justification subject to availability of resources and plan targets. Hence no time-limit can be fixed for providing the facility in every Village Panchayat.

Telegraph

No target is fixed as the Telegraph facility is provided on demand and justification of traffic.

(d) 12 village Panchayats have been provided with STD facility in West Bengal.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

(g) No demand is pending with the Circle as STD facility is provided only on specific request from Village Panchayats.

New Post Offices in Bihar, Maharashtra and U.P.

4178. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the Government of Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh for opening of new post offices in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ being taken thereon, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade any post offices in the above States;

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to expand the speed post services in the above States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) No proposal from the Government of Bihar and Maharashtra for opening of new Post Offices has been received. One proposal for opening of a new Post Office in village Saifai, District Etawah, U.P. was received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Post Office has been sanctioned.

(c) and (d) Post Offices are sanctioned/upgraded subject to norm based justification, availability of resources and depending upon merits of each case.

(e) No, Sir, at present there is no proposal to expand Speed Post Services in Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Selection of Films

4179. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether some private distributors/producers have been ignored for their offer for providing weekend night films and National Film Development Corporation has been preferred for this assignment;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether MRTPC has given directive to Doordarshan authorities in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) the present status of the proposal;

(f) whether the Government have received complaints in this regard; and

(g) the details of the films which have been shown twice in a year, twice in two years and reasons therefor and steps taken to ensure fair selection of films?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). With a view to ensuring the telecast of good films and earning of revenue, Doordarshan singed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) on 8-8-96 for telecast of films on Fridays/Saturdays on DD-1 whereby NFDC was authorised to procure films from private producers/distributors.

(c) to (e). On a petition made to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission, the Commission has directed Doordarshan on 29-8-96 to consider the offers of private producers at par with NFDC till the date of next hearing. This direction of MRTP Commission is being followed by Doordarshan. The next date of hearing of the case has been fixed for 23-12-1996.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) No film has been shown twice in one year on DD-1 and only one film "Deewar" offered by NFDC has been shown twice in two years as a special case because of its popularity. Proposals of films from NFDC and other private parties are received *suo-moto*. All the films are telecast which are found telecast worthy by the Preview Committee.

Illegal Construction

4180. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the illegal construction on the land of the Department of Communication, in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) the time by which the above constructions are likely to be demolished; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop illegal construction in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) :

(a) *Departments of Post and Telecom*

Yes, Sir.